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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(Currently Amended). A method for reducing the immunosuppressive effects of IL-12 treatment comprising administering the composition of claim 24 ~~co-administering with said IL-12, an effective amount of a nitric oxide inhibiting and/or neutralizing agent.~~

2-4(Canceled).

5(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim 4 24, wherein said agent is an inhibitor of nitric oxide generation is an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase.

6(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim 5 wherein said agent is specific for inducible nitric oxide synthase.

7(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim 5 wherein said ~~inhibitor~~ inhibiting agent is selected from the group consisting of L-N^G monomethyl arginine (L-NMMA), L-N^G nitroarginine (L-NORAG), L-N^G nitroarginine methylester (L-NAME), L-N^G nitroarginine p-nitroanilide (L-NAPNA), L-N^G aminoarginine (L-NAA), L-N^G cyclopropylarginine, L-N^G allylarginine, asymmetric L-N^GN^G dimethylarginine (L-ADMA), L-Niminoethyl ornithine (L-NIO), 7-nitro indazole (7-NI), 2,7 dinitro indazole, 3-bromo 7-nitro indazole, aminoguanidine, N,N'-diaminoguanidine, dimethylguanidine, diphenyleneiodonium, iodoniumdiphenyl, di-2-thienyliodonium, chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine, pimozide, clozapine, calmidazolium,

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2,4 diamino-6-hydroxypyrimidine, methotrexate, N-acetyl-5-hydroxytryptamine, miconazole, ketoconazole, clotrimazole, imidazole, 1-, 2- and 4-phenylimidazole, methylene blue, NO, carbon monoxide, ebselen, phencyclidine, and antineoplastic agents (doxorubicin, aclarubicin).

8(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim 7 wherein said inhibiting agent is L-NAME.

9(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim 7 wherein said inhibiting agent is L-NMMA.

10(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim ~~1~~ 24 wherein said agent is a nitric oxide scavenger.

11(Currently Amended). The ~~method~~ composition according to claim 10 wherein said scavenger is selected from the group consisting of N-acetyl cysteine, pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate, and hemoglobin.

12(Currently Amended). A method for reducing the toxicity of IL-12 treatment comprising administering the composition of claim 24; ~~co-administering with an effective dose of said IL-12, an effective amount of a nitric oxide inhibiting and reducing agent.~~

13-23 (Canceled).

24(Original). A therapeutic composition comprising IL-12, characterized by reduced toxicity in mammals, said composition comprising an effective dose of said IL-12 and an effective amount of a nitric acid inhibiting and/or neutralizing agent in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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25(New). The composition according to claim 24, wherein said IL-12 is a protein.

26(New). The composition according to claim 24, wherein said IL-12 is a nucleic acid encoding a protein.